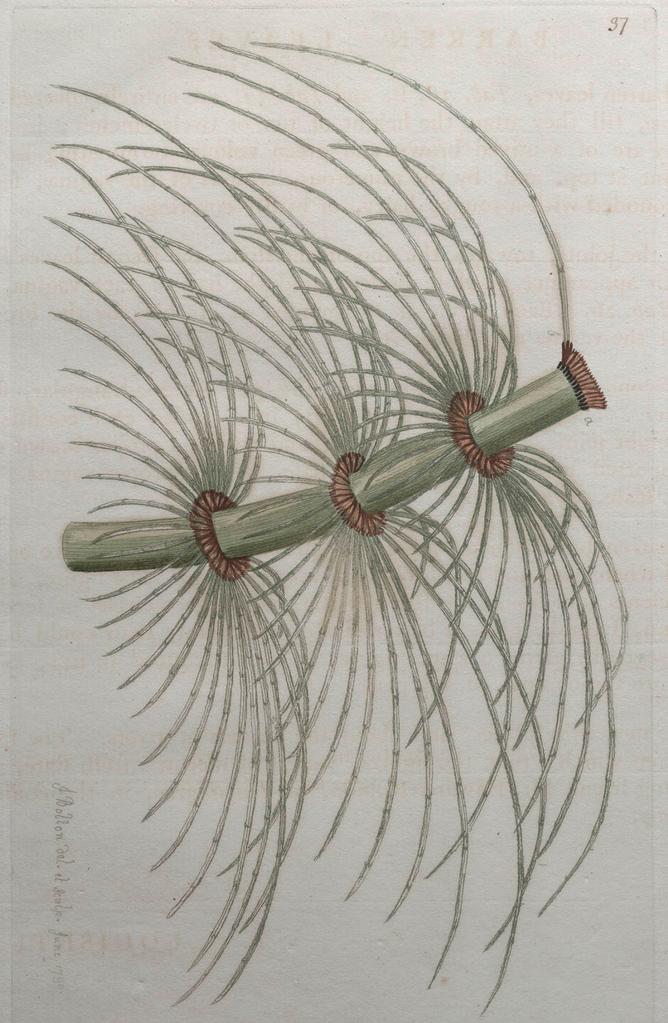

BARREN LEAVES.

The barren leaves, *Tab.* 36, B. and *Tab.* 37, are entirely covered by the vaginæ, till they attain the height of ten or twelve inches; in this ſtate they are of a mixed brown and green colour, terminating in an acute point at top, and, by the numerous diviſions of the vaginæ, ſeem as if ſurrounded with a rough, hairy, or briſtly covering.

From the joints, towards the top of the ſtem, the ſecond leaves firſt make their appearance in cloſe circles round the baſe of each vagina, as *Fig.* B. *Tab.* 26. Each circle is ſurrounded at its baſe by the brown laſcinæ of the vagina next below it.

The ſecond leaves when full grown, *Tab.* 37, are quadrangular, five or ſix inches long, and grow about thirty in a circle; each conſiſts of ſeven or eight joints, with black vaginæ, and having a proper brown vagina, ſupported by a black ſcale at its baſe. b, the proper vagina. a, the black ſcale, *Tab.* 37.

The barren leaves, in a proper ſoil, riſe to the height of five or ſix feet, and when freſh and full grown are very elegant. The figure, *Tab.* 37, repreſents four joints of the firſt leaf, with three circles of ſecond leaves, and, I think, gives a better idea of the plant, than could have been conveyed by giving a whole figure, ſo much reduced in ſize, as to bring it into the compaſs of my plate.

Grows in marſhy places, and about the borders of rivers. The ſpecimens from which I took the figures, were ſent me, in a freſh ſtate, by my obliging friend Mr. Edward Robſon, of *Darlington*, in the county of *Durham*.

JAMES BOLTON *Filices Britannicae (An History of the British Proper Ferns)* LEEDS, 1785–1790 CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN Octavo